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From: MacIntyre, Mark
Sent: Fri 3/18/2016 6:06:27 PM
Subject: DRAFT TEXT: EPA: Our Proposed Cleanup Plan will make Portland Harbor safer and healthier for all

Kevin & Nina: This is NOT final, but pretty close....If you'd like, please add a brief quote and a couple of sentences on source control in the highlighted area below and we will be happy to make it part of the release. Of course, any thoughts on how we might make it a better communications tool are welcome as well....

Thanks!

MM

EPA: Our Proposed Cleanup Plan will make Portland Harbor safer and healthier for all

60-day comment period set, four public meetings scheduled. Public now encouraged to provide official comments for the record

(Portland - April XX, 2016) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released its "Proposed Plan" to clean up the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, an industrial waterway covering approximately 10 miles of the Lower Willamette River, from Broadway Bridge to the Columbia Slough.

The plan calls for either dredging or capping of the contaminated sediment in areas where it causes most harm to people, fish and wildlife. Other, less contaminated areas will be monitored and allowed to recover naturally over the next decade. Active cleanup work is estimated to take seven years and cost \$811 million.

"The time has come to clean up the Lower Willamette, the lifeblood of Portland's environment and economy," said Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator for EPA Region 10. "Our proposed cleanup plan is based on the best science available, including detailed risk assessments and extensive analysis of the most effective cleanup technologies. Our aim is to make Portland Harbor healthier and safer for all who treasure and rely on it, while also keeping it open for business."

Release of the sediment cleanup plan signals the opening of the 60-day public comment period. The public is encouraged to provide formal comments on the plan - through June X - either in person, at public meetings, online or in writing.

At the end of construction, EPA estimates that cancer and other serious illness risks posed by

contamination will be greatly reduced – in many places to 100 times safer than it is now. Natural recovery will further reduce these risks to levels deemed acceptable under Superfund, but will not eliminate all risks.

Under a 2002 agreement with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), EPA manages the cleanup of contaminated sediment in the Lower Willamette and ODEQ is responsible for pollution source control of the 10 river mile site. The EPA plan will complement ODEQ's ongoing source control work.

(ODEQ SOURCE CONTROL QUOTE & PROGRAM SNAPSHOT HERE)

Industry, storm drains, and combined sewer overflows have polluted Portland Harbor surface water, groundwater, riverbanks and sediments for the past century. Nearly 100 hazardous substances were found at concentrations that pose a risk to people, fish and wildlife. Resident fish and shellfish accumulate contaminants that are harmful to people and wildlife. People who consume resident fish are most at risk from contaminants at the site. One of the main goals of the cleanup is to make it safer for people to eat more fish once construction of the remedy is complete and the river continues to naturally recover.

The primary contaminants in the Lower Willamette are polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs), dioxins/furans, DDT and its byproducts, and poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The EPA's proposed cleanup would address approximately 300 acres of contaminated sediments through dredging, capping, armoring or enhanced natural recovery, including removal of over 1,400,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the waterway.

Approximately 1,900 acres of the site with lower contaminant levels are expected to recover naturally over time. Just over 60 acres are slated for "enhanced natural recovery," where a thin layer of clean sand is used to cover the bottom, reduce contaminant levels and accelerate the natural recovery process. (For a detailed look at the plan with a clickable map, see the link below).

The release of the proposed plan also marks the beginning of a 60-day public comment period. There will be four public meetings held in and around Portland where EPA officials will explain the Proposed Plan and public comments will be recorded. The public can also submit comments through the EPA website and at four public meetings scheduled for the following dates, times & locations:

(FINAL TIMES, DATES & LOCATIONS HERE)

Written comments should be submitted to:

(MAILING ADDRESS HERE)

And should be postmarked by (DAY & DATE)

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For more information on the proposed cleanup plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site,
(SITE URL HERE)

To submit comments on the Proposed Plan through EPA's website, click here:

(URL HERE)

For a clickable map of the cleanup area or a copy of the "Portland Harbor Cleanup Plan At-a-Glance," please visit:

(URLs HERE)

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